

FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO
THULE
821st Air Base Group

—
SERVE AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD
TIMES
Thule AB, Greenland

May 3, 2007

Volume 6

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Group Commander

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Team Thule Dining Out



Photo by Capt Mark Oden

By Capt Elizabeth Paul,
821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

Team Thule celebrated 56 years on top of the world with a Dining Out April 12.

Dressed in blue, about a hundred Airmen along with fellow team Thule members and honored guests Maj Gen William Shelton, Commander 14th Air Force and Chief Master Sergeant Cathi Durick, Command Chief 14th Air Force, attended the Dining Out.

The night kicked off with the Thule Air Base Honor Guard posting the colors, followed by the National Anthems of Canada, Denmark, Greenland, and US. Toasts were made. Then the fun began.

As with any formal military function, certain rules governed individual actions and protocol. When the rules of the mess were not followed during the event, people were sent to the grog bowl, where the individual could choose between a "leaded" toilet (alcoholic) or an "unleaded" toilet (non-alcoholic). The "leaded" mixture was brewed by Thule's very own Chaplain, Chaplain (Capt) David Zavala. The "unleaded" drink was a concoction of items representing each squadron.

Mister and Madam Vice, Master Sgt Greg Fournier, 821 Support Squadron, and Airman

First Class Angela Ortiz, 821 Security Forces Squadron, along with the President of the Mess, Col Edward Fienga, Commander 821 Air Base Group kept the evening going with their witty banter.

"I had a great time," said Staff Sgt Alisha Miles, 821st Air Base Group. "Mister and Madam Vice and the President were great and kept things rolling. They really made the evening very entertaining."

After a meal of Chicken Cordon Bleu served by the TOW Club staff, Maj Gen Shelton provided the keynote address. The General's remarks focused on Thule's critical teamwork and our contribution to "delivering unparalleled space effects."

"I am confident you will meet these challenges and many more with the Team Thule resolve that has produced successes over and over," said Maj Gen Shelton.

The evening ended with DJ Alex mixing some tunes for those who wished to stay and socialize a little longer.

"A lot of hard work and dedication went into the Dining Out," commented Colonel Fienga. "I would be really remiss if I didn't thank everyone who stepped up and helped out with the planning, fundraising, and execution

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Armed Forces Day

By Capt Elizabeth Paul,
821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

Team Thule members were offered a chance of a lifetime April 7.

Local residents from surrounding villages brought their families and dog teams for Thule's Armed Forces Day.

Some of the families traveled through the harsh arctic conditions up to three days to get to Thule.

Members from across the base came out to participate in the day's events.

The day was filled with activities for all ages, including mukluk hockey, ice golf, tug of war, sack races, short helicopter rides with Air Greenland, snow mobile rides, a dog sled race, and to close out the day, an awards dinner.

All the events took place on the frozen North Star Bay. The ice measured 52+ inches and was cleared by Greenland Contractors, who made paths and a small outdoor hockey/ice skating rink.

The highlight of the day for everyone was the dog sled race. Thirteen dog sled teams, their drivers and a lucky Team Thule member raced across the frozen bay around an iceberg and back to the finish line.

The winner of the race, Qerngaq Nielson, was presented with a hunting rifle by the base commander at the awards dinner held at the community center.

The money raised from the day's events went to support Operation Julemand.



Photo by Capt Mark Oden



Photo by Capt Elizabeth Paul



Photo by Capt Mark Oden

RIGHT: Photos by Capt Elizabeth Paul



By Lt Col Mark Erickson, 821st Air Base Group Deputy Commander

Since this is the first *Thule Times* issue that I've had the opportunity to contribute to since my arrival, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as your new Deputy Commander. But first and foremost is my appreciation to everyone for extending such a warm welcome to me. I've had the opportunity to tour most of the Team Thule duty sections and I must say I'm very impressed at everyone's expertise and dedication to our space superiority mission. No matter what your role may be in conducting our supporting AFSPC mission, you've given me a very positive impression of your expertise!

So who am I? I've had a strange career "path" compared to the "normal" space & missile operations officer because I have basically split my time between space and missile operations on the one hand, and education and training on the other. I entered the Air Force via Officer Training School in 1986 and was commissioned in early 1987. Thule marks my eleventh PCS and represents (let me count on both hands and a foot here) six space and missile assignments, and five on the education and training side. I've worked ground-launched cruise missiles in Italy, Minuteman II at Whiteman Air Force Base and Minuteman III at Minot Air Force Base, DSP space warning satellites in the Australian Outback, joint staff time at STRATCOM at Offutt Air Force Base, and now Deputy Commander here at Thule. On the other hand, I've taught history at the AF

Academy twice, attended civilian graduate school under AFIT sponsorship at George Washington University in Washington DC, attended Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, and commanded a Basic Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base (hello to all you 326 Training Squadron former Bulldogs out there!).

On the philosophical side of things, I'd like to invite everyone to ponder for just a moment one notion – isn't every challenge also an opportunity? In other words, I believe (and would ask you to consider) how your attitude greatly impacts how you perceive the world. Some days doesn't it feel like it's just one darn thing after another? There's this tasker, then come fifty emails, then those thirty phone calls, then a half dozen meetings and on and on. It would be easy to become overwhelmed. But what if we tried to regard each one of these challenges as fundamentally an opportunity? It's all in how you mentally approach the situation. A positive attitude would greatly assist us in not regarding a particular task as something to just get done as quickly as possible and then move on, but rather as an opportunity to become a better airman, NCO, or officer. Obviously I understand (believe me I do) that not every day's a holiday in the Air Force, nor is every formation a parade. Nevertheless, a whole lot of things that might be regarded as silly pains in the rear can, with a mere modification of our attitude, become an opportunity for continuous improvement. Remember two points. First, your attitude is virtually

the only thing in life that you can control 100 percent of the time. It's all inside your own cranium. Second, when you become better as a person, then the team to which you belong is also strengthened. Consequently, your unit's mission becomes that much more effective and you had a direct hand in that! Clearly, this is self-fulfilling prophecy because once you take pride of ownership in your unit's successes, you should want to strive to take your performance as an Airman to the next level, therefore taking your team up another notch, and on and on.

So I'd urge you to regard the fundamental challenge that a one-year remote at Thule represents as also an opportunity (and really many opportunities) for self-improvement. None of us (well, I hope, very few of us) enjoys being separated from our family and friends. But if we work hard to maintain contact and communication with them, do our very best to preserve the ties we have with our loved ones, then membership in Team Thule can then be regarded as an opportunity. It's an opportunity to get a degree, to finish your CDCs, to get in better physical condition, to deepen your spiritual life, to finish your PME, to study for that next promotion, to learn how to play the guitar, speak a foreign language, and on and on and on.

It's all in our attitude!

I appreciate the hard work and dedication that I've encountered in each member of Team Thule so far. I look forward to continuing to work with each and every one of you during your remaining time at the Top of the World!!

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of this event. This was a great Team Thule Dining Out."

Dining Outs originated during World War II with the famous "wing dings" hosted by Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold. The first events were designated as Dining Ins which only military members could attend. The idea quickly became popular and evolved to dining outs so civilians, spouses and friends could attend. The Dining Out and Dining In provide occasions for Air Force members to gather socially in a formal military function.



Photos by
Capt Mark Oden



Photos by Capt Elizabeth Paul

14th Air Force commander visits Thule Air Base

The 14th Air Force's Commander and Command Chief paid a visit to Thule Air Base, April 12-13.

Maj Gen William Shelton and Chief Master Sgt. Cathi Durick began their visit with a mission brief before touring the base, 12th Space Warning Squadron, and Detachment 3, and met with Team Thule's Airmen.

Major General Shelton also participated in Team Thule's Dining Out as the keynote speaker.

"Team Thule was very excited to host Major General Shelton and Chief Durick," said Col Edward Fienga, 821st Air Base Group commander. "This visit gave us an opportunity to show how proud we are here at Team Thule to be DoD's northernmost base and it's best."

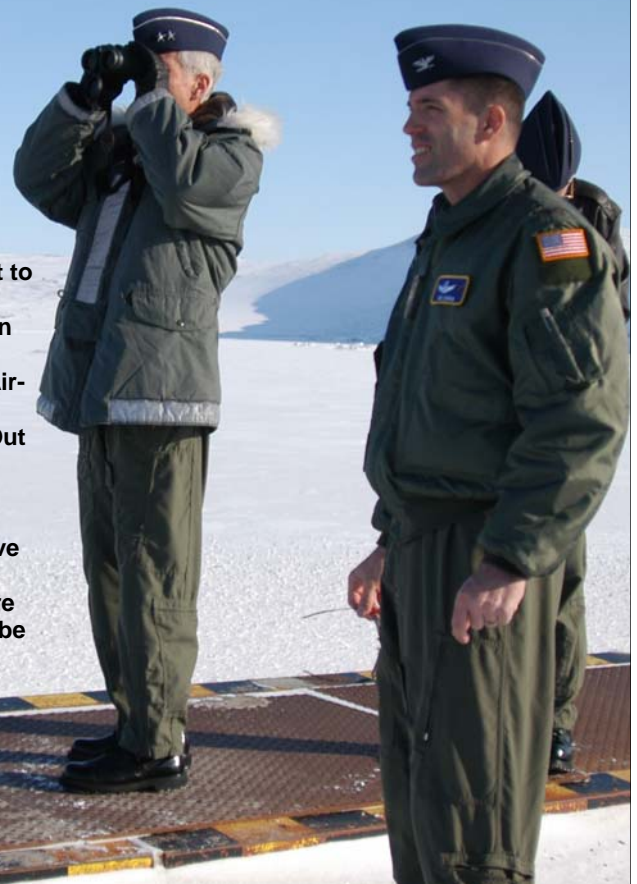




Photo by Capt Mike Hulin



By Capt Elizabeth Paul, 821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

In Thule's quest to raise money for Operation Julemand, the base sponsored its first ever "Deal or No Deal".

The Top of the World club hosted the event March 17 as part of a membership drive.

The Deal or No Deal event, complete with its very own Howie Mandel, suitcase cuties, and a banker, chose its participants randomly from Team Thule members gathered for the event. Participants were selected by having their TOW Club membership ticket drawn.

Col Edward Fienga, aka. Howie Mandel got the show rolling by introducing the suitcase cuties made up of 10 females and four males who were nominated by their fellow Team Thule members to participate.

As part of the fundraiser six males were "selected" by popular vote, \$1 per vote, to help augment the suitcase cuties.

"The top four males, Staff Sgt Steve Hale, Master Sgt David Cunningham, Tech Sgt Michael Seekamp and 1Lt Charles Holmes, raised \$700," said Staff Sgt Rose McKinney, event organizer. "All four were great sports and wore dresses and wigs to fit the suitcase cuties profile."

Of the other two males who were nominated to wear dresses, Master Sgt Charles Denman walked around the audience selling tickets for the surprise suitcase, while Maj Steve Moore was Howie's assistant.

The five contestants, Maj Frank Reyes, Capt Mark Oden, Senior Airman Alexander Johnson, Helle Roendrup, and Senior Airman Shawn McNeil, each had the chance to win \$300, however the banker kept a tight fist on the money with the contestants walking away with only \$125.75. Senior Airman Johnson turned down the bankers deal and won \$0.25 and a tee-shirt. Captain Oden went with his selected suitcase and won \$5. While Major Reyes took the bankers deal and walked away with \$94. Ms. Roendrup won \$1.50 with her suitcase. Airman Shawn McNeil, the last contender, stuck with his suitcase winning \$25.

The finale for the evening was a drawing for the final suitcase. Airman First Class Melanie Camara won the \$300 suitcase.

"Deal or No Deal raised over \$2000 for Operation Julemand," said Sergeant McKinney. "Not only did we help out the local children but everyone had a lot of fun in the process."



Photo by Tech Sgt Derek Magnusson



Photos by Capt Mark Oden



Photos by Capt Mark Oden



Photos by Capt Mark Oden



Photo by Tech Sgt Derek Magnusson

Tracking Station celebrates National Engineers Week

By Jennifer Tribble
HTSC Quality Management

Detachment 3, 22nd Space Operations Squadron, celebrated National Engineers Week 2007 with a special employee recognition event March 1. National Engineers Week 2007 took place February 18 - 24.

"This week recognizes the hard work and accomplishments of all our Thule Tracking Station Harris employees who contribute to completing our mission, including those who work outside of engineering fields," said Saundra White, Thule Tracking Station Site Manager.

Founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, National Engineers Week is an annual event that seeks to raise public awareness of engineers and the work they do to improve society's quality of life. Throughout the United States, thousands of engineering, education, and cultural societies, along with corporations and government agencies sponsored a variety of activities.

In addition to raising awareness about the work



Courtesy Photo

Saundra White, TTS Site Manager, and Susan Iversen, TTS Chief of Support, put some finishing touches on employee gifts prior to the TTS Engineers Week Recognition event.



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Col. Robert Pavelko, Detachment 3 Commander, presents Mike Johnson, TTS Engineer Technician, with a token of appreciation for his work in engineering. All site technicians were recognized for their work and accomplishments at a National Engineers Week event here March 1.

of engineers, National Engineers Week is aimed at encouraging young students to pursue studies in science, mathematics and engineering fields.

At the top of the world, engineering skills and knowledge are responsible for maintaining communication capabilities for multi-million dollar satellites moving thousands of miles above the Earth.

"The Air Force Satellite Control Network could not function without each of their outstanding efforts," said Lt. Col. Robert "Sponge" Pavelko, Detachment 3 Commander. "The Engineer Technicians here at Detachment 3 provide a fundamental need, ensuring our American way of life is protected through their critical work on the Air Force Satellite Control Network."

Detachment 3 is the largest and northernmost unit of eight worldwide satellite tracking stations in the AFSCN. It performs supports for telemetry, tracking and commanding operations of United States and allied satellite programs in support of national defense.

The 22nd Space Operations Squadron, a unit of the 50th Space Wing, is headquartered at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.



Photo by 1Lt Charles Holmes

Col. Edward A. Fienga, 821st Air Base Group commander, and Commander Tommy Toft, Danish Liaison Officer, toast the sun's return.



Photo by 1Lt Charles Holmes

Members of Team Thule gather in front of the 821st Air Base Group headquarters building to see the sun come out of hiding.

Team Thule Welcomes back the sun

By 1Lt Charles Holmes.
821st Air Base Group

On February 22, arctic warriors of Team Thule gathered at the 821 Air Base Group headquarters to see something not seen in several months...the actual first glimpse of the sun!

At approximately 1304 hours, the sun made its appearance through the notch on the ridge of South Mountain, symbolizing the official end of the dark season. Due to the base's location, it is in complete darkness from November to February and constant sunlight from May to August.

For the "Sun Up Ceremony", Col Edward Fienga, 821 Air Base Group Commander, and Commander Tommy Toft, Danish Liaison Officer, made speeches congratulating everyone on making it through the dark season and

celebrating this Thule tradition. Afterwards, they gave the signal for the switch to be flipped to turn off the lights on the Christmas tree in front of the building and the star on South Maintain, which had been on since the tree lighting ceremony back in November when the sun officially set. They followed the command by offering a toast to the sun with a shot of Gammel Dansk" (Old Danish bitter).

The ceremony meant several things for the members of the base. For starters, people would soon be able to put away their "happy lights" and get some real sunlight instead of the artificial sunlight. Also, the storm season will be ending and warmer temperatures coming shortly. Folks will also be able to go outside and partake in outdoor activities and best of all, go Thule Trip-pin'!



By Capt Elizabeth Paul,
821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

After four months of darkness Thule welcomed the sun back with its annual First Light Festival.

March 10 the Vehicle Maintenance building was transformed into a sunflower field for an evening of sun and sunflowers.



First Light—Sun and Fun

Team Thule came out in force for an evening of fun, food and entertainment. The buffet style meal was prepared and served by the Dundas Restaurant staff while drinks were offered by the Top of the World Club staff.

"This party is one of the highlights of the year," said Master Sgt Mike Sergot, one of the events coordinators. "Good food, good bands and great company...who could ask for anything more."

To keep the festival going until the early hours of the morning two bands were entertained Team Thule members. The first band to play was an American band from Dallas while the second band was from Denmark.

The six member American band, the Josh Goode Band, a unique pop/rock band with ample jazz, reggae, and funk undertones, played a dynamic live show and got Thule members up and dancing.

The five member Danish band, Air-play, kept the evening going with their covers of current US and Danish hits as well as some classics.

The First Light Festival has become a tradition at Thule, to officially welcome back the sun and end the "dark season".

Because of its location, about 700 miles north of the Arctic Circle and approximately 946 miles from the North Pole, Thule experiences constant darkness from November until February and constant sunlight from May to August.



Photos by Capt Elizabeth Paul

DV Season Begins with Brig Gen Schwartz

By 1Lt Charles Holmes, 821st Air Base Group

Team Thule hosted Brig. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz, The Adjutant General, District of Columbia Army National Guard during his visit 22-23 February. The purpose of the General's trip was to help commemorate African American Heritage History month by serving as the keynote speaker at the Annual African American Heritage Month Banquet.

During the General's stay, he had the opportunity to eat with young Airmen for lunch, attend the "Sun Up" ceremony, challenge some folks to some ping-pong, and tour 12th Space Warning Squadron and Detachment 3, 22nd Space Operations Squadron. At his various stops, General Schwartz was able to meet and greet the men and women of Thule and gain appreciation of the mission at the DoD's northernmost installation.



Photos by 1Lt Charles Holmes

Above: Brig Gen Errol Schwartz takes time out of his 12 Space Warning Squadron tour to school Staff Sgt Kevin Boles, 12 SWS, in ping pong.

Below: Airman First Class Ashley Kurimai, 821 Security Forces Squadron meets Brig Gen Schwartz during his tour of Bravo Control at 12 SWS.



Photos by 1Lt Charles Holmes

Left: Lt Col Robert Pavelko, Det 3 commander, provides mission brief and how they communicate to the satellites.

Right: Brig Gen Errol Schwartz provides words of wisdom to the attendees at the Annual African American Heritage Banquet.



Photo by Capt Elizabeth Paul

Fredericka Gregory, Canadian Ambassador to Denmark and Colonel Richard Gervais, Canadian Defense Attaché to Norway, spent an hour at Thule visiting their fellow Canadians Capt Pete William and Sgt Darren Small, 12 Space Warning Squadron.



Cynthia Binnington, Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Environment, visited Thule April 3 on her way to Alert, Canadian's northern most base. During her visit Ms. Binnington toured the base and received a mission brief.

Photos by Capt Elizabeth Paul



Photo by Capt Mark Oden

A 109th Air National Guard LC-130H "Skibird" arrived to Thule in late March. The unit, based out of Scotia, New York, provides worldwide airlift of personnel and equipment using C-130H and LC-130H aircraft and conduct ski operations on ice caps and polar ice fields in both the Arctic and Antarctic. While the unit's primary responsibility is to re-supply polar scientific researchers, they also perform sustained search and rescue missions in the polar regions. The 109th is the only Air Force unit that flies the ski-equipped LC-130H aircraft.

Thule Promotions

Photos by 1Lt Charles Holmes and Capt Elizabeth Paul



LEFT: Major Steve Moore, 821st Support Squadron, Commander and Master Sgt James Albini, 821st First Sergeant pin on Senior Master Sgt Kurt Schmidtman, 821st Support Squadron, during his promotion ceremony Feb 28.

RIGHT: Capt Tyson Schmidt and Tech Sgt David Hodd, 12th Space Warning Squadron, prepare to pin on Tech Sgt Cory Beebe, 12th SWS, during his promotion ceremony Feb 28.



LEFT: Airmen First Class Artem Kamalov and Pedro Pita, 821st Security Forces Squadron, prepare to pin on Airmen First Class Nichole Hersh, 821st SFS, during her promotion ceremony Feb 28.

RIGHT: Staff Sgts Jerry Chandler and Brad Reeves, 821st Security Forces Squadron, prepare to pin on Staff Sgt Devlin Stalion, 821st SFS, during his promotion ceremony Feb 28.



LEFT: Master Sgt Daniel Leon and Tech Sgt Mario Romero, 821st Security Forces Squadron, prepare to pin on Staff Sgt Sean Chessman, 821st SFS, during his promotion ceremony Mar 30.

RIGHT: Tech Sgts Eric Seilaff and Cory Beebe, 12th Space Warning Squadron, prepare to pin on Staff Sgt Jeremy Miller, 12th SWS, during his promotion ceremony Mar 30.



LEFT: Master Sgt Daniel Leon and Staff Sgt Sean Chessman, 821st Security Forces Squadron, pin on Airman First Class Donald Bresett, 821st SFS, during his promotion ceremony Mar 30.

RIGHT: Tech Sgt Mario Romero assists Master Sgt David Cunningham and Airman Christian Cuevas-Velez, 821st Security Forces Squadron, pin on Maj Frank Reyes, 821st SFS commander, during his promotion ceremony Mar 29.



Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign a success

By Capt Elizabeth Paul,
821 Air Base Group Public Affairs

Thule's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicked off March 12 and run through 16 March.

Don't know what AFAF is? Well as Tech Sgt Daniela Mewes, the 821st Air Base Group AFAF campaign coordinator, explained it, AFAF is "Your Commitment to Caring".

"It's very simple," explained Mewes. "Air Force members can donate money to any one of the four following organizations: AF Villages Indigent Widow's Fund; AF Aid Society; AF Enlisted Village Indigent Widow's Fund; or The General and Mrs. Curtis LeMay Foundation and all of these organizations help out our Air Force family in different ways."

The 821st Air Base Group set a goal this year of 100 percent contact with a monetary goal of \$2,709.50 and designated a week to meet that goal.

"The 821st Air Base Group easily surpassed its monetary goal of \$2,709.50 by raising \$4,629" said Mewes.

The 12th Space Warning Squadron raised \$1,200 for AFAF.

"Thule's generosity continues to amaze me," said Lt Col Mark Erickson, 821 Air Base Group Deputy Commander. "In almost record breaking time Thule's Airmen easily collected \$5,829."

AFAF was established to provide for an annual effort to raise funds for the charitable affiliates that provide support to the Air Force family (active duty, retirees, reservist, guard and their dependents, including surviving spouses) in need. These

organizations help Air Force people with aid in emergencies, with educational needs, or to have a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members.

Air Force Village Foundation—Premier Active Living Communities for Retired and Honorably Separated Officers of ALL Uniformed Services and their Spouses, Widow(er)s and Elderly Dependents, age 62 and better. <http://www.airforcevillages.com/>

Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) - The AFAS is the official charity of the United States Air Force. AFAS provides worldwide emergency assistance, sponsors education assistance programs, and offers a variety of base community enhancement programs that improve quality of life for Airmen and their families. <http://www.afas.org/>

Air Force Enlisted Village Foundation—The Air Force Enlisted Village was founded in 1967 to provide a safe, secure and dignified place for indigent surviving spouses of retired Air Force personnel. <http://www.afenlistedwidows.org/>

General and Mrs. Curtis LeMay Foundation The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation is a national organization which provides financial assistance to widows of all retired Air Force personnel. <http://www.afvw.com/lemay.html>

Neither the AFAF or any of the AFAF affiliations receive taxpayers' support. Because the AFAF campaign if Air Force people helping Air Force people directly, administrative and fund-raising costs are among the lowest in the nation. In fact, 95 cents or more of every dollar contributed is actually spent on our mission – assisting Air Force members and their families.



Photo by Chaplain (Capt) David Zavala

Thule Chapel News

The Protestant Parish at the Thule Chapel recently elected its Parish Advisory Council (PAC). The members of the PAC represent the parish in matters that include outreach opportunities, special events, lay-person participation in worship services, Chapel Tithes and Offerings budget and spending, and special needs. From left to right are Mr Jim Johnson (President), Ms Debbie Bills (Secretary) and SSgt Rodney Cathcart (Vice-President). The Protestant Service meets in the Sanctuary at 1100 on Sundays.

NEW PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION LAUNCHED

There's a new word on the streets of Thule you might have heard, it's TAPA.

No it's not the Thule Auto Parts Association, it is Thule Association of Professional Airman.

You're probably wondering what does that mean? I'm glad you asked. It's a new professional organization comprised of Company Grade Officers, Senior NCOs and Airmen Basic through Technical Sergeants.

Now you're probably saying to yourself "Wow, what a diverse mix of personnel." You're right. It's our opportunity to take our small but strong collective group of personnel and consolidate our efforts to promote unity and esprit de corps amongst all Airmen. But that's only one part of what TAPA brings to Team Thule.

There is more to TAPA than just camaraderie. It also provides the chance to inspire leadership while enhancing the professionalism of all Airmen assigned. It allows for the rare opportunity to have all ranks to work side by side and provide an informal atmosphere to promote ideas and problem solving. But it does not stop there; TAPA also advances the education of Air Force heritage and recognition ceremonies at all levels.

By now you're probably thinking, "how can I be a part of TAPA?" It is easy. We meet every second Thursday of the month at 1800 in the Top of the World Club Ballroom.

TAPA is still in the growing process so we need your participation to help build the foundation of what will possibly be the only occasion you'll ever

have to interact with people of not only your peer group but those either higher or lower ranking. TAPA doesn't just need you, but wants you to make an impact that will be felt not just during your time at Thule but for those who follow.

If you would like more information please feel free to contact any of the Executive Council of TAPA: Master Sgt Tom Kuhn at x 3901, Capt Jonas Gonzales at x 5270, Staff Sgt Rose McKinney at x3167 or Airman First Class Angela Ortiz at x3234.

Don't hesitate to be a part of TAPA and make history. More importantly leave Thule a better place and yourself a better Airman!

Information provided by TAPA President, Master Sgt Tom Kuhn

Verifying Records, Personal Information May Effect Promotions

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The one constant among all Airmen is the desire to be promoted.

There are many things Airmen can do to affect their chances for promotion, but perhaps the most important is ensuring their personal information is correct. Missing or inaccurate enlisted or officer performance reports, decorations, awards and citations can affect promotion scores for senior airmen through general officers.

While some decorations may earn points toward scoring for enlisted Airmen, winning quarterly awards or academic awards from a professional military education school can help strengthen records for both officer and enlisted members.

Fortunately, the Air Force makes it easy for Airmen of all ranks to check their records online through the virtual Military Personnel Flight.

"Every Airman is responsible for his or her career and should review his or her record on a routine basis or prior to

any board where the record may be reviewed," said Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski, Air Force Personnel Center commander. "Each of us takes the time to prepare our vehicle prior to taking a long trip... that's what we're looking for... each Airman taking the time to be proactive in taking control of his or her career."

Airmen receive e-mail notifications around their birthday each year advising them to review their electronic personnel records maintained within the Military Personnel Data System.

Officials suggest after Airmen log in to vMPF and accomplish a records review; a hard copy should be printed for personal safekeeping. If all record information is correct, no further action is required until the next annual review.

If errors are discovered and individuals can make the needed changes to those parts of the record where update links are provided, they should do so. Other errors should be directed to the commander's

support staff or Air Force Contact Center for resolution.

AFPC's Promotion Board Records Branch is responsible for providing Airman a copy of the selection record within 30 duty days of receipt of a valid request. This timeframe actually stretches to about 45 calendar days when you add in non-duty days. Each request is accomplished in a "date precedence order" from the time it's received at the PBR branch.

There are two categories of requests: "As Is" and "As Met." Officers and senior NCOs may request one "As Is" copy and one "As Met" copy of their selection record within a consecutive 12-month period per each request. The "As Is" request provides a copy of the record "as it is" when requested. To request an "As Met" copy, the record must have met a selection or evaluation board within the past 12 months. "As Met" copies cannot be requested until after promotion results have been publicly released. "As Met"


copies will reflect the selection record "as it met" the selection or evaluation board the person is requesting it for.

Officers and senior NCOs can request a copy of their personnel records by completing a Selection Record Request Worksheet by visiting the AFPC Web site and typing "selection record" into the search engine.

The completed worksheet should be e-mailed to Records.Review@randolph.af.mil, or faxed to either DSN 665-2693 or commercial (210) 565-2693. Selection records will only be forwarded to an authorized military e-mail account.

Finally, AFI 36-3003 grants everyone the opportunity to request permissive TDY to review their record in person here at AFPC.

For more information, Airmen should visit their commander's support staff or call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775, commercial (210) 565-5000 or DSN 665-5000.

Thule Weather Channel						
10:23L, 09-Apr-2007					09:48L, 09-Apr	
	Wind	Gust	Temp.	Chill	Storm Conditions	
	Speed			Factor	BMEWS	DELTA
	Knots	Knots	C / F	C / F	NMTN	DELTA
					Det 3	CHARLIE
BMEWS	41.1	49.7	-20/-4	-38/-36	SMTN	DELTA
VORTAC	69.4	89.0	-21/-5	-42/-44	Base	DELTA
Shelter 7	71.4	82.2	-19/-2	-40/-40	Road Status	
Crescent	15.3	20.8	-18/0	-29/-21	BMEWS	CLOSED
Det 3	42.3	51.8	-17/1	-34/-29	NMTN	OPEN
SMTN	73.7	91.4	-18/-1	-39/-38	Det 3	OPEN
Airport	50.0	67.0	-16/3	-34/-28	SMTN	OPEN

Storm Delta

Thule Air Base was hit with its first storm delta and the second storm of the year April 9. As the base awoke that morning the winds were blowing and visibility were almost non-existent. All base members were told to stay in their dorms or work locations until the storm blew through.

The base was in storm conditions for about 20 hours. During the height of the storm winds reached 66 knots on base and 100 knots off base. Once the storm was over the clean up began and three hours later people were able to move about base once again.

Six days later the base was hit with its third storm but this time the storm was a little weaker. Two days later the base was hit with it's third storm in two weeks sending people home in the middle of the day.



FAR LEFT: The Thule weather channel keeps base personnel updated on storm conditions.

LEFT: Blowing snow limits the view from Building 105 during the April 9 storm.

Photo by Capt Mark Oden

RIGHT: Greenland Contractors begin cleanup at the base terminal after a winter storm April 9.
BOTTOM: Tall snow drifts were found throughout the base from the April 9 storm.



Photo by Capt Mark Oden



Photo by Capt Elizabeth Paul

Low Prices Meet Their Match at AAFES

DALLAS – The Army & Air Force Exchange Service's (AAFES') "We'll Match It!" initiative has been updated to allow authorized shoppers to compare prices between the exchange and "warehouse clubs."

"Previously, AAFES didn't match 'warehouse clubs' as their shelf prices are offset by required membership fees," said AAFES' Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton. "Military families made it clear that while they understood the PX and BX do not charge fees, they still considered it to be the original 'members only' club. Honoring 'warehouse club' prices is just another example of AAFES adapting to meet the expectations of those it serves."

It is only through proactive surveying and review that AAFES can ensure its prices are routinely lower than the competition. But even with consistent monitoring, today's competitive retail landscape requires AAFES to rely on its price matching program to guarantee that, in the event the PX or BX doesn't have the lowest price, authorized customers will always receive the best price.

"We'll Match It!" works in two ways:

- * Shoppers who see a price differential of less than \$10 can tell the cashier who will match it on the spot.
- * Customers who report a price difference

of greater than \$10 need only to bring a current local competitor's ad to receive the reduced price.

In either "We'll Match It!" scenario the merchandise being compared must be identical.

"AAFES is committed to having low prices," said Chief Eaton. "'We'll Match It!' is simply a last line of defense in our desire to be the military shopper's first choice. After AAFES conducts national surveys and associates from the store level compare local prices, military families have this price matching mechanism to make sure no one missed anything."

"We'll Match It!" promotes AAFES as a price leader with a pledge that its operations will match competitors' current, local price on any identical stock assortment. In addition to this same-day pledge, AAFES also offers a 30-day price guarantee on any item originally purchased from AAFES and subsequently sold at a lower price by AAFES, or another local competitor (excluding unauthorized dealers).

Since AAFES has a dual mission to provide quality merchandise and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to supplement MWR programs, there are exceptions to the "We'll Match It!" pro-

gram. Except for the Exchange Catalog and aafes.com, PXs and BXs cannot accept challenges from any catalog or website. Other exclusions include special offers or promotions, free-with-purchase offers, limited quantity offers, bundled promotions, special financing, "gimmick" promotions, special order automotive parts, gasoline, automotive labor/service, double and triple coupons, clearance items, flat percentage off items and vending items.

"We'll Match It!" is available every day of the year exclusively at AAFES facilities around the world. Purchases from the Exchange generate funds for much needed MWR programs. In the past 10 years, AAFES contributed more than \$2.4 billion to MWR/Services programs. These funds are used in support of Youth Services, Armed Forces Recreation Centers, post functions and other quality of life initiatives enjoyed by military families on installations across the globe.

The "We'll Match It!" policy applies to all AAFES retail stores including main stores, Shoppettes, Class Six, Car Care and troop stores. Complete details concerning the price matching program are available online at aafes.com—<http://odin.aafes.com/core/docs/pricematch.htm>.



DOD implements Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program

by Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

The Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program, or AVIP, mandates Airmen assigned to high-threat areas receive the Anthrax vaccine, while also providing Airmen the choice to continue anthrax vaccines if they are not assigned to a designated high-threat area.

The Department of Defense issued a new policy memo Oct. 12 requiring the DOD begin mandatory anthrax vaccinations for individuals in selected high-threat areas or special mission units.

Headquarters Air Force sent out an implementation message Feb. 16 to major commands, directing them to implement the AVIP, in accordance with current DOD and Air Force guidance, said Lt. Col. Todd Shull, Air Force Counter-Biological Warfare Division chief.

This implementation is in the initial stages and the Air Force has established a four-week timeframe, upon unit notification, for units to begin giving the An-

thrax vaccine to Airmen meeting the mandatory guidelines, he said.

The mandatory anthrax vaccinations are limited to Airmen who have orders to or are (currently) in specific high-threat areas - primarily the CENTCOM AOR or Korean Peninsula, Colonel Shull said.

In order to be subject to the mandatory anthrax vaccination you must remain in (these areas) for 15 or more consecutive days, the colonel said.

The DOD determined that these forward areas pose the highest threat for military forces so they must meet the mandatory anthrax vaccine measures. Additionally, personnel in designated special mission units, regardless of location, are also subject to mandatory Anthrax vaccination.

"The second key piece of the program is the voluntary aspect of the AVIP," Colonel Shull said. "This involves Airmen who have received at least one anthrax vaccine dose since 1998. Under the new guidelines, they can elect to continue getting the anthrax vaccinations in accordance with the dosing schedule whether or not they are (or will be) assigned to a designated high-threat area."

Taking the vaccine voluntarily is consistent with good medical practice and personal protection, Colonel Shull said.

"While we've identified two areas as the most likely locations for an Anthrax threat, we saw in 2001 that anthrax at-

tacks could occur anywhere," he said. "Vaccination offers a layer of protection, in addition to antibiotics and other measures, that is critical for members of the armed forces."

The anthrax vaccine was first licensed in the United States in 1970. Since then, it has been given to those who could get exposed to environmental sources of anthrax such as service members, veterinarians, farmers, woolworkers, Colonel Shull said.

In December 2005, anthrax vaccine was found to be safe and effective against all forms of anthrax, including inhalation anthrax. Over the course of the last 37 years the safety and effectiveness of the anthrax vaccine has been demonstrated. The anthrax vaccine is just as safe as other vaccines we're normally given over the course of our lives, he said.

Installation commanders ensure compliance with the AVIP by maintaining oversight and ownership of the installation's AVIP implementation program.

"Ultimately, it comes down to the installation commanders to make sure this program works," Colonel Shull said. "They will be responsible to ensure Airmen receive mandatory vaccines when required and voluntarily continue the dosing schedule if they so desire."

Over the course of implementing this program, the Air Force will provide information and make additional information sources available to all Airmen about Anthrax and the AVIP. This includes a tri-fold hand-out, briefings, and web links.

More information about Anthrax vaccinations can be obtained at the following links:

- AVIP Trifold Brochure(PDF): <http://www.anthrax.mil/documents/996AvipTrifold.pdf>
- AF/A3SC Anthrax Website: https://www.a3a5.hq.af.mil/a3s/a3sc/CCBRN_resource/biological/anthrax/index.asp
- Military Vaccine Agency (MilVax) Website: <http://www.vaccines.army.mil/>
- MilVax Anthrax Website Website: <http://www.anthrax.mil/>
- MilVax AVIP 2007 Website: <http://www.anthrax.mil/whatsnew/resumemandatoryselect.asp>

Energy conservation, efficiency, a priority for AFSPC

By W. Fox Theriault,
Air Force Space Command Resource
Efficiency Manager

Energy conservation is a national and command priority. The growth and demand for energy is increasing quickly, putting a great deal of pressure on the available resources. Reducing the amount of the energy you use is one of the fastest, most effective ways to save energy and money. It will also help fight climatic change and provide for cleaner air.

You don't need to make major alterations to see the difference. The right combination of small changes can reduce your energy bill by thousands of dollars.

Look at all the equipment and machines running right now -- lights, fans, computers, cars, aircraft -- it is difficult to imagine life without them. Now imagine the amount of energy and dollars being spent to run them. Fortunately, people all around the world are becoming aware of the problem of wasting energy and are making a conscious effort to conserve it and put less demand on resources. By conserving energy we also lower the amount of pollutants we release into the air and help keep the air clean.

For the past 20 years the Air Force has recognized the necessity to cut back facility energy usage. Through special initiatives the Air Force cut energy usage by 30 percent. AFSPC reduced its energy consumption by 34 percent within that timeframe.

The federal government passed new legislation to cut usage another 30 percent by fiscal year 2015 (Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*). This order requires all federal agencies lead by example in advancing the nation's energy security and environmental performance by achieving a new set of goals. Though the order targeted several new initiatives such as petroleum conservation, hybrid vehicles, and building performance, the focus of this article is energy efficiency, awareness and conservation.

The new plan calls for across-the-board facility energy reduction of three percent annually through 2015 or a 30-percent reduction by the end of FY 2015. It also calls for a two-percent reduction in

water consumption during that same period starting in 2008 with an end goal of 16 percent by end of FY 2015. In order for the Air Force and Air Force Space Command to achieve these target goals, it is very important everyone in AFSPC knows the mandates and that energy awareness becomes a focal point in all we do, whether on the job or at home.

For a nation with a small percentage of the world's population (six percent), the United States uses an enormous amount of energy -- about a third of the energy produced each year. We may not realize that this precious commodity is becoming limited, and we need to learn how to use it better and more efficiently. Energy conservation, such as efficient heating, cooling and lighting saves money and resources.

At the highest levels of the Air Force, reducing facility infrastructure costs is a major initiative -- nearly 40 percent of an average base operating support budget goes toward energy and utility costs. Defense budgets have been strained for the last decade, and there appears to be no relief in sight. AFSPC is fully committed to energy conservation and efficiency and is working toward lessening our demand for energy. The command is making every effort to curtail energy consumption by retrofitting lighting and mechanical systems, installing energy reducing devices where feasible, procuring energy-saving equipment, seeking renewable energy products, and by educating people about their role and responsibility in helping to save energy.

In 1985 the Department of Energy started an energy awareness campaign, and every year the Air Force runs its campaign in October to promote energy consciousness. Still, too many people are unaware of how their everyday actions and activities at home and work affect energy use and impact the environment. Energy awareness Web sites can provide information on the energy performance of equipment or processes that employees and home-owners can use to reduce energy consumption. For example:

- Thirty percent of energy consumed in buildings is used unnecessarily or inefficiently.

- Commercial buildings generate 18 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions.

- Industrial facilities generate 33 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. In the United States, approximately 6.6 tons (almost 15,000 pounds carbon equivalent) of greenhouse gases are emitted per person every year.

(Source: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus_protect_environment)

Here are some simple things you can do to reduce energy consumption:

- Use compact fluorescent lamps to save energy and cut pollution. Swapping several lamps in your home or workplace can add up to large savings over time.

- Switch off lights if you are leaving the room for longer than 15 minutes -- it is a myth that it is cheaper to leave fluorescent lights on than to switch them off.

- Switch off lights when you go home -- lighting an empty office overnight wastes enough energy to heat water for 1,000 cups of coffee.

- Use your desktop or tabletop lamp; why light a tennis court to read a paper?

- Switch off your computer monitor when not in use. Monitors use about two-thirds of a computer's total electricity.

- Recycling paper reduces water use by 60 percent, energy by 70 percent and cuts pollution in half.

- Take mass transit or carpool; these practices use 25 times less energy.

- Burn carbohydrates not hydrocarbons: ride a bike to work.

- Set hot water heaters no higher than 105 degrees.

By taking up these simple practices, small savings can add up collectively to large savings in energy use.

President George W. Bush said, when kicking off the Energy Awareness Month 2006, "To meet our growing energy needs will require creativity, determination and discipline. By working together, we can foster economic growth, improve our environment, and leave behind a safer, cleaner, more prosperous world for future generations."

Your efforts in making energy conservation a part of your day-to-day activities will benefit our Air Force and free up precious money for other critical programs. The bottom line -- good energy management is smart, and adopting energy awareness is a decision you cannot afford to ignore.

Air Force Commentaries:

Military Professionals Don't Get a Preseason

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Safeguarding important papers is something we all have been taught to do. Some of us lock them in a box underneath the bed; others store them in a safety deposit box, or tuck them away in a 'secret' coffee can. Whatever the method, we know these papers must be kept safe.

But what is the point in securing these papers if they don't protect your family?

When is the last time you checked to ensure your Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and virtual record of emergency data were accurate? Do they reflect the major changes that have occurred in your life?

"Airmen must take the time to ensure their SGLI and record of emergency data are always updated to reflect their current circumstances," said Mr. Tom Perry, chief

of the Air Force casualty matters division at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "The designations and information Airmen provide via these documents are binding and the Air Force will carry them out as the members wishes."

SGLI is paid to the designated beneficiary listed on the election form regardless of that person's current relationship to the insured servicemember. Have you remarried, recently divorced or setup a trust? All these events could require an update to your SGLI beneficiary.

Likewise, these same events could drive the need for an update to your virtual Record of Emergency Data. vRED data is used to notify designated next-of-kin family members in the case of any emergency. This information ensures the Air Force will be able to notify your loved

of ones of your status in a timely manner.

The record of emergency data also allows you to instruct the Air Force on other matters should the unthinkable happen. You can select who will receive your unpaid pay and allowances, your death gratuity, and who will determine the disposition of your remains.

"Keeping your SGLI and vRED up-to-date is one of your most important responsibilities as an Airman," said Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski, AFPC commander. "It helps your Air Force family to take care of your family in an emergency."

For information and instructions on updating your SGLI and vRED visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site or call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775, select option 1, 1, 2.

Personnel Records Readiness: Are you ready?

By Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski
AFPC commander

Because change is the one thing you can count on, take time now to review your personnel records to ensure they are ready for whatever is around the next corner.

The Air Force Personnel Center is establishing an annual campaign to encourage Airmen to review their records at the beginning of each year to make sure they remain complete, current and accurate. The Center will continue to provide tremendous service and take care of all Airmen. However, that service requires each Airman to do their part.

Consider what could happen if you fail to update your *virtual* Record of Emergency Data (vRED) and become a casualty. Rather than receiving notification through Air Force channels, your next of kin may learn of the situation through the news media or another unofficial source. Even worse, what if your parent is ill and is not able to deal with the stress of your injury? Documenting these types of details on your vRED enables the Air Force to correctly follow your instructions in the event you become a casualty.

Equally distressing would be if you failed to update your Servicemembers Group Life Insurance beneficiary information. An oversight like this could lead to your family members not receiving insurance benefits from the Air Force.

Keeping your records current is not only applicable for a deployment. Unfortunately, accidents on- and off-duty occur all too frequently...vehicle, motorcycle and recreational sporting accidents occur almost daily.

Personnel records also need to be reviewed as they directly impact your promotion potential. Look at your records and understand what is documented and what *should* be documented. Individual performance counts! It's critical that your records accurately reflect your performance. When your records meet a promotion board, we need your help to ensure the board views your complete and accurate record of performance.

Airmen should review their records and physically account for their decorations and performance reports. Just because this information appears in your electronic personnel record or SURF, doesn't mean the information is also in your hard copy record. It never hurts to check.

Also, consider the impact on career development for an officer who fails to keep a Transitional Officer Development Plan current. Development teams can only conclude that the last entry in the record is what matters. If we don't know what your career goals are, they won't be a factor as we'll match you to the needs of the Air Force.

Many portions of your personnel record can be reviewed or updated at a time and place of your choosing through AFPC's *virtual* Military Personnel Flight or by contacting the Air Force Contact Center.

When we are all ready as Airmen, we become an Air Force ready to complete the mission our Country calls upon us to accomplish, while ensuring our families have the best care possible. I encourage you to take charge of your career, review your personnel information and keep it accurate.

Commentary – Air Force Clubs: tradition or distant memory?

Col. Kathleen E. Pivarsky

Air Force Space Command, Director of Manpower and Personnel

Are you a member of “your” officer or enlisted club? For those of you who are, join me in explaining to your fellow Airmen the importance of being a member of “their” Air Force club.

Invite them, perhaps persuade them, to join during our ongoing Air Force Space Command Commanders’ Challenge. Help them understand the personal and professional value of becoming a club member.

Throughout Air Force history, our clubs have been instrumental in maintaining esprit de corps through military tradition ... promotions and pinning-on ceremonies, dinings-in and dinings-out, Air Force Balls, and various award ceremonies and banquets have been made possible through our Air Force clubs.

They have been the center of our community celebrations. Holiday parties, brunches and special events have brought our families and friends together through the years -- contributing in great part to our sense of community.

Historically, our clubs have also been the best place for Airmen to come together and unwind while off-duty.

In the past, as we often hear today, we were expected to work hard and play hard. Much of that “playing hard” was carried out in our Air Force clubs.

The clubs were places young troops listened to old war stories that somehow made their senior leadership seem more human and approachable. By being more approachable, senior leadership gained a deeper appreciation of what was important to the young troops.

The young troops learned club traditions -- rites of passage -- that contributed to their sense of camaraderie, bonding them to their fellow Airmen and to the Air Force as an institution.

In essence, using today’s terminology, we were all engaged in informal two-way mentoring, and I for one learned a great deal during these mentoring sessions.

Since the de-glamorization of alcohol, many of you may say times have changed and so has our society. It hasn’t changed as much as you might believe. Air Force leadership will still tell you they expect you to work hard and play hard, but the difference today is they’ll also tell you they expect you to be safe.

People still like to have a good time, and some even like to go out and have a drink or two. So why do so few of you choose to do so in your clubs?

I’ve heard some say it’s because they’re concerned senior leadership will somehow look with disapproval on their behavior.

As a part of this command’s senior leadership team, I will tell you this can’t be further from the truth. I’d ask you to remember when we were young Airmen, the clubs were the only places to be on a Friday night -- the hot spots.



If the only reason we went to our clubs was for food or a drink, we could have just as soon gone downtown, but what kind of bonding or connectivity would we have forged with our fellow patrons? With that in mind, you should realize we look forward to seeing you in the clubs, and hope to see you enjoying the same bonding, camaraderie and mentoring we experienced.

As leaders, our only concern is that you do so safely. I can think of no better place to be safe than in our clubs, where our fellow Airmen can take care of their own.

If you don’t go to the clubs because they don’t provide the food, atmosphere or entertainment you’re looking for, then I ask why you haven’t taken the time to make them “your” clubs? Whether you want different music or a less stuffy atmosphere, you need only tell your club management what you want in your clubs. You’ll find they are ready and willing to make the changes needed to bring you back.

Come to the next club advisory council meeting -- or better yet -- drop by on a Friday night and tell management what you want in “your” clubs.

Our clubs have always been a vital part of Air Force life and are rich in tradition and heritage, but without our continued membership support they may someday become only a distant memory of our past.

Who will host our future family holiday gatherings and special events? Where will we go to gather and honor our best and brightest? And where will we join our fellow Airmen to bond together through our common experiences? Our clubs need support from each of us to make sure they are there for those who follow. I truly believe all of us have a professional responsibility to support the institutions we have inherited.

Whether you’re an officer or enlisted member they are “your” clubs. For those of you who are members, I thank you for contributing to our tradition. For those who are not, I ask you to step up, join “your” club today!

Future is bright for Air Force space assets

by Louis A. Arana-Barradas
Air Force Print News

The Airmen of Air Force Space Command are tracking a lot more than the man-made space junk that orbits the Earth.

Space operators are troubleshooting the way they do business. They're focusing on getting their capabilities -- the ones most Americans know little about -- to the forefront of the battlefield.

Leading the effort is a group of leaders with experience in real-world combat operations. These men and women know how to work with their sister services to ensure servicemembers on the ground get the best air and space support needed to win the war on terrorism. Every day, these combat Airmen help joint forces achieve the best possible spherical situational awareness.

The commander of these space Airmen, Gen. Kevin P. Chilton, is a longtime space operator. The command is modernizing its capabilities and technologies to make the services second to none. He said the command is focusing on key areas.

"First we need to be preserving, as well as developing, new capabilities the joint warfighter relies on. Second, we have to provide a nuclear deterrent with our ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile) force," the general said. "Third, unlike other commands, we have an acquisition responsibility, so we are focusing on making sure we develop, acquire and field the necessary capabilities we need for the future. Underpinning this is our need for talented people."

So as the command heads into a more clearly defined future, it is concentrating on recruiting, training and retaining "the talent we need to run our space systems in the future," he said.

That is a key strategy for fighting the continuing war on terrorism, a battle in which space command Airmen are deeply involved every day. Space operators bring the Global Positioning System and timing to the worldwide joint fight. They also control global communications with their arsenal of satellites and provide weather and missile warnings. The unmanned aerial

vehicles operating over Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world also rely on global communication.

"None of this would happen without the GPS and timing signal," General Chilton said.

"Many of the goals we are paying close attention to are what we call space situation awareness," he said. "We need to have a better understanding of what is in space."

Space command is doing a good job of cataloging and counting the objects orbiting the Earth, he said. But the command needs a better understanding of just what the objects are, the capabilities of the satellites in space and the intent of the satellite's users.

"The recent Chinese satellite test really put an exclamation point on this requirement for the future," the general said. "After we understand the situational awareness and develop that, we need to also focus on how we can command and control our assets so they can be responsive to any threat that may appear."

Getting there means facing change involving recapitalization and acquisition. But the general said his Airmen are up to the challenges and that this will make for some exciting times ahead.

"We are recapitalizing every system in the command," General Chilton said. "Right now, every satellite system -- whether weather, communications, missile warning or GPS satellites -- is being recapitalized. We are developing brand new ones, and we are launching some of those satellites this year."

The command is looking deep into the future to develop satellites that won't go into service for several years, but that will help with space surveillance. And the command is also recapitalizing the Air Force's entire ICBM force, essentially rebuilding the Minuteman III missile system deployed in the field.

Getting the funds needed to recapitalize means making lawmakers and the American public more aware of the command's capabilities. Doing that is a dedicated cadre of Airmen doing a task most people don't know about -- space command missions. It's a job space Airmen



Photo by Michael Tolzmann

Tech. Sgt. Bryan Schubert watches a moving satellite dish inside one of the "golf ball" protective dish covers as it tracks a satellite moving across the northern polar sky in January at Thule Air Base, Greenland. Among the key areas on which Airmen in Air Force Space Command are focused is preserving and developing new capabilities for the joint warfighter.

should be proud of, the general said.

"We require them to train and be proficient in what they do -- but they are in the fight 24-7," the general said. "On top of that, our ICBM force provides that strategic umbrella for our nations and that doesn't happen by accident. They are out there every day, doing the job."

But it's the payoff of having a viable space command that makes its capabilities worth their weight in gold to the command's customers.

"Nothing we do in Air Force Space Command is for Air Force Space Command," General Chilton said.

"Everything we do is for the joint fight."

That's why the general said he wants everyone to know and have the confidence to turn to the command for "anything space." Space Airmen have capabilities that run the gamut from systems development, acquisition fielding and actual operations to the launch of ICBMs, missile warning, space surveillance and a host of key satellite systems.

"We have the expertise for America in Air Force Space Command," he said. "If you have a question about space, we should be at the top of your Rolodex."

Professional Development Program Achieves Milestone

By Tech. Sgt. Kate Rust

Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

The first course of a five-course, space certificate pilot program initiated by Air Force Space Command and the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs concludes this month for 20 space professionals.

The goal of this "first-of-its-kind" program is to increase the technical foundation of space pros and encourage them to pursue advanced academic degrees relevant to the space professional career path.

"This Systems Engineering class kicked off in January, and the 20 space professionals who attended -- officers and enlisted (selected from Peterson, Schriever and Buckley Air Force Bases in Colorado and F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.) -- had very positive feedback," said Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz, AFSPC vice commander.

"The members of this initial cadre are completing a space certificate program, which they can apply to a master's degree in space operations; systems engineering; engineering management; or business administration (with an emphasis in space)," the general said.

The results of the UCCS pilot program will determine the future of the space certificate program. This pilot program is a prototype, said Dr. William Ayen, senior instructor of information systems, College of Business, UCCS. What UCCS learns from this will be made available to other education consortium institutions to use as a model for future space professional programs.

"UCCS is fully behind this initiative," Dr. Ayen said. "This is a significant opportunity to serve not only the community, but all other Air Force Space Command personnel around the world with an online program."

Capt. Stephan Cummings, 21st Operational Support Squadron at Peterson AFB, is a student in the class: "Any professional education for officers and enlisted increases capability and efficiency," he said. "This particular program focuses on work-related disciplines that have made me more productive in my job."

The program, which is funded by AFSPC, ties directly to space acquisitions and operations, and helps improve the technical competence of the Air Force and its space professionals.

Students see benefits from the program as more than just graduate education.

"This course directly relates to my acquisitions career field," said 1st Lt. Luke Rostowfske, 2nd Space Operations Squadron at Schriever AFB, "so I consider it professional development as much as education."

Senior Airman Jonathan Morris, 1st SOPS, also at Schriever, said he was hoping to gain an expanded understanding of space operations from a managerial or engineering standpoint. "I think this course will prompt new ideas to conduct space operations, whether it's through developing new (concepts) or how we employ current assets to enhance space capabilities to the warfighters," he said.

Students take one course per term through a combination of distance learning and off-duty classroom attendance. The space certificate program consists of the following courses:

- Systems Engineering Management
- Space and Space Systems
- Information and Communications Systems
- Space Role in National Policy
- System Lifecycle

The program provides a foundation of space-related technical and managerial coursework, and students have a variety of technical and non-technical backgrounds. Credits earned from the program can be applied to one of four master's degree programs available through UCCS.

Master of Engineering in Space Operations

Master of Engineering in Systems Engineering

Master of Engineering in Engineering Management Master of Business Administration (space emphasis)

Among the eligibility requirements, applicants must be part of the space professional community; must have completed at least one bachelor's degree, but not a master's degree; and officers must be within their first six years of service, while enlisted members must have less than 16 years of service.

For more information on courses and the pilot program, contact the Space Professional Development Office point of contact, Maj. Denise Harris, at (719) 554-5173 or Tom Boland at (719) 554-7755.

Symposium aims to build better space officers

Staff Report

The second annual Air Force Space Command Space Professional Development Symposium is scheduled to take place here May 23-24.

The event is for company grade officers and selected officers of all ranks and includes informational briefings on the command's wide array of missions and roles.

The symposium's focus is to educate AFSPC officers on the command's role and its future direction.

Briefing topics will include manned space, missile defense, foreign space capabilities, personnel issues, future space capabilities, space aggressors, Reserve issues, ICBM transformation and U.S. Strategic Command's theater space

roles. Also, an expert panel will discuss space policy and doctrine.

When the U.S. Space Commission report in 2001 stated the U.S. military was not on track to meet the nation's needs in the space arena and that the Defense Department must develop stronger space leaders through career development education, the Air Force established a space cadre to meet the nation's needs, which led to Space Professional Development Symposium. The previous year's symposium here included more than 110 officers from eight AFSPC bases.

To attend the symposium, or for more information, call Lt. Col. Zannis Pappas at DSN 481-4980, Capt. Kristi Adams at DSN 481-4974 or Lieutenant Hefley at DSN 481-3795.

Attendance reservations are due May 7.



Photo by Staff Sgt Thomas Moreno

By Capt Elizabeth Paul,
821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

Even though Thule Air Base is 3589 miles from Athens, the Olympic spirit lives on in the bi-annual games called Boxtop Olympics.

Twice a year, the Canadian military and several C-130s descend on Thule to resupply Canadian Station Alert under the code name Operation Boxtop. For two to three weeks, the Canadians transport fuel and supplies to keep Alert running for the following six months. During this time the two bases, Thule and Alert, sponsor an event designed to pit Canadians against Americans, Danes and Greenlandics in a test of will and strength known as the Boxtop Olympics. This spring's Olympics opening ceremony was held at Alert. Twenty Olympians from Team Thule were hand-picked to meet the Canadians "on their turf." Thule's Olympians traveled on Friday evening to Alert on one of the resupply C-130s. Once at Alert the olive

branch was extended and the teams took some time to get to know their opponents off the court.

Opening ceremonies were held early the next morning at Alert and the teams put on their warrior faces as they squared off.

The first event was the outdoor relay. Braving subzero temperatures the two teams gathered outside for the event, each team picking five members to compete. Team Thule consisted of Lt Col TJ Lincoln, Capt Mike Hulin, 2Lt Donald Heaton, Henrick Bebe Madsen and Staff Sgt Reeves. The relay began with Lieutenant Heaton racing 75m down the hardened snow. Once on the other end he grabbed a pair of Shooosh skis and set them up for the rest of the team. Then Lieutenant Heaton put on a pair of snow shoes and raced back to the finish line where the rest of the team waited for him. Once he crossed the finish line the remaining four team members raced down the same snow track and all four strapped on the same pair of skis. Together, as a team, they zigzagged their way through a series of obstacles and then raced straight back to the finish line, with Team Thule grabbing the win.

The second event at Alert also tested the agility and skills of its participants. Again five players were chosen, this time for an indoor relay. Team Thule



Photo by Lt Col Bob Pavelko

was represented by Capt Jeremy Johnson, Master Sgt James Albini, Jesper Hacke, Mogens Henriksen and Jens Ulrick Andersen.

The relay began when Captain Johnson made his way up and down the basketball court dribbling a basketball around an obstacle course of pylons backwards. Once he reached the end, Hacke picked up a hockey stick and

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Photo by Lt Col Bob Pavelko



Photo by Lt Col Bob Pavelko

BOXTOP OLYMPICS CONTINUED



Courtesy Photo

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stick handled a hockey ball down the same obstacle course backwards. As Hacke crossed the finish line, Andersen picked up a badminton racquet and hit a birdie down around the obstacle course without letting it hit the ground. Henriksen was next in line and with a ball resting on a spoon in hand, he raced down the obstacle course without dropping ball. The final competitor, Sergeant Albin, began his trek down the obstacle course after being blindfolded and spun in a circle. He made his way down the course with his teammates shouting out commands to get him through the course safely. Although Team Thule gave it their all, they fell short losing the race to Team Alert.

The finale for the day was a competitive game of hockey. Although normally a game Team Thule excels at, with the rules and equipment a little different then they were used to, Team

Thule took one square to the chin losing to Alert 2-15.

After a closing ceremony with Team Alert up one event in the quest for the Boxtop Olympic trophy, both teams made their way down to Thule

on C-130s.

On Sunday the hunt for gold continued as Team Thule and Team Alert battled on the Thule fitness center floor for the bragging rights of

rules. It made quite a difference as Team Thule beat Team Alert easily with a 8-3 victory.

As the day wound down the two



Photo by Capt Elizabeth Paul

teams came together one more time for the awards ceremony.

"A lot of hard work went into making these Olympic games happen from both sides," said Danni Linnau Dahl, event organizer. "We couldn't have asked for a better group of Olympians."

After a disappointing start Team Thule had come back to win the Boxtop Olympics and was awarded the coveted Boxtop trophy.

"It was a phenomenal event," said Lt Col TJ Lincoln. "It was great to see the men and women of our three great nations get together for a friendly competition. It was truly a memorable experience for the members of Team Thule and CFS Alert."



Photo by Capt Elizabeth Paul

Boxtop Olympic winners. The two teams began the day with a volleyball match. Being on home court, and having extra players to draw from gave Team Thule the advantage they needed to win the first two volleyball games.

After a short break the teams moved on to the next event, dodge ball. Team Thule wasn't taking any prisoners on this game either and crushed Team Alert within minutes.

The final game of the Olympics was a hockey rematch but this time played by Team Thule's



Photo by Staff Sgt Thomas Moreno



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